

Spring 1991

## Opportunities in Aerospace Careers

Wallace R. Maples

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### Scholarly Commons Citation

Maples, W. R. (1991). Opportunities in Aerospace Careers. *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research*, 1(3). Retrieved from <https://commons.erau.edu/jaaer/vol1/iss3/3>

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## BOOK REVIEW

### ***OPPORTUNITIES IN AEROSPACE CAREERS***

**Wallace R. Maples**

If you have any responsibility for advising students on future careers, particularly in the aviation/aerospace field, have I got just the book for you! This reviewer has dealt with the advising of students for many years and always had to rely on a blend of personal experience and a good dose of the U.S. Department of Labor *Occupational Outlook Handbook* as sole information sources. However, there is a new star on the horizon in the form of Dr. Wallace Maples's *Opportunities in Aerospace Careers*, a 1991 publication of the NTC Publishing Group. Neither the author nor the Publishing Group is a newcomer to such an important and timely endeavor.

Maples, currently Professor of Aviation and Chair of the Aerospace Education Department at Middle Tennessee State University, is an "old hand" in aviation. Some of his job titles and vocational pursuits have included U.S. Army aviation mechanic, skydiver, pilot, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) aerospace education workshop leader, University Aviation Association (UAA) member and trustee, airline training program consultant, and collegiate educator. He has just about done it all!

NTC Publishing Group, based in Lincolnwood (Chicago), Illinois has been a long time publisher of vocational related literature. The company has textbooks available, written by subject matter specialists, on everything from careers in accounting (A) to careers in writing (W). Most of NTC's over 100

publications are in the form of "How to--" or "Careers in--" books, each covering a single career.

*Opportunities in Aerospace Careers* is organized into 10 chapters and contains a total of 147 pages. The ten chapters are: a definition and history of aerospace; airlines; airports; engineering research and development; general aviation; federal and state government; aerospace manufacturing; military aerospace; NASA; and collegiate aviation programs. Within these chapters is a plethora of extremely useful information about the aerospace field, the employment outlook, career advancement, educational requirements, salary opportunities, and ways to get any information not already contained in the book. For the most part, initial answers for career related questions are included in the text.

One chapter worth commenting on is the section that related to airlines. It seems that most individuals who seek career guidance in aviation begin by inquiring about the air carriers; both Maples and NTC must sense the same importance since the airline section is the largest in the book. This chapter is organized by job title and includes data on becoming a pilot, a maintenance technician, a reservation sales agent, a flight attendant, and an avionics technician (curiously, flight dispatcher, mentioned in the airline organizational section in the beginning of the chapter is not discussed). Within each job title division is: the minimum educational

requirements of those currently being hired by the airlines, the qualifying certificates required (usually from federal agencies), the working conditions, the salary (remember to adjust for future changes), the employment outlook, and a final analysis, which is referred to as, "the bottom line."

Maples and NTC are to be applauded for the obvious attempt that they have made to avoid the use of sexist language. Unfortunately, a misconception in the aviation community is that the use of "he" automatically means "she" as well. This practice, which some find offensive, may be a deeply-rooted habit that is perpetuated because the Rules of Construction in Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 1 state that words importing the masculine gender include the feminine. This is a weak argument if you consider the ever-increasing numbers of women in every phase of aviation/aerospace. If credibility is to be fully achieved, every effort should be made to reflect current

conditions in the area of Human Resources.

Each section of *Aerospace Careers* is complete with current and accurate facts. Unfortunately, few pictures are included and there is no extensive reference list. However, all materials are presented in such an easy to read, relaxed, and conversational style the reader may be encourage to wonder if this is, perhaps, just like having a face-to-face talk with Wally Maples.

If you are an aspiring future aerospace professional, a high school guidance counselor, a parent of a college-bound student, or just someone who wants to know more about aerospace opportunities, the \$9.95 for the soft cover (0-8442-8651-6) or \$12.95 of the hard cover (0-8442-8650-8) may be a very good investment. NTC is at 4255 West Touhy Avenue in Lincolnwood (Chicago), IL 60646-1975.

HRL

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(JAAER reserves the right to edit for brevity while retaining the intent of the letter.)

Editor, JAAER:

I just received the Fall 1990 JAAER. Congratulations! It looks good, and I know that it will develop into a more complete academic journal with time.

I think also you should sell advertising in the *Journal*, as most other academic journals do.

Irvin N. Gleim  
Author

Editor, JAAER:

This afternoon I received the JAAER 1,2 issue and it discussed several aviation education issues and possibilities which very much caught my interest and fancy.

I'm sure I'm not alone in appreciating the large amount of time you are expending in editing the JAAER. Quite an effort!

Computer Expertise  
John T. Lowry, Ph.D.